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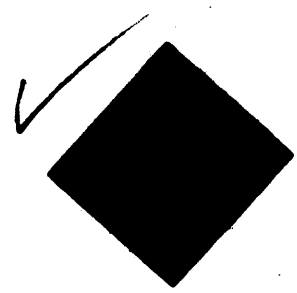
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F.O.  
371

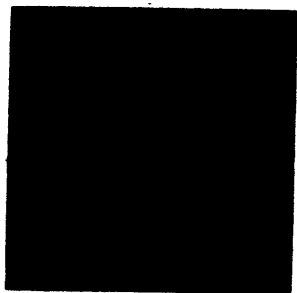
1948

PALESTINE



FILE No. .... 648 .....

.....



68646

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE					
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Reference:-  
**FO 371 / 68646**

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2

1948

PALESTINE

E 648

15 JAN

Registry Number *E 648/648/51*  
 FROM *J. H. G. H. M.*  
 No. *61*  
 Dated *22/23/48*  
 Received in Registry *H. Bealey*  
*15 Jan*

*Initials: H. Bealey*  
*reference to the letter has requested export licences for aircraft to initial Palestine Airways the proposal is use of aircraft for training purposes by Palestine Airways, Ministry of Supply has promised for only one aircraft. Two have been made to supply the aircraft next week. Aircraft ordered are 1 Proctor, 3 Ansons Mk. 1. 5 Tiger Moths and 1 Do. 18.*

Last Paper.  
*12284/12284/11 47*

References.  
  
 68646

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)  
*the Agency*

(Action completed.)  
*G. E. M. 19/1*

(Index.)  
*[Signature]*

Next Paper.  
 940

(Minutes.)

The letter within concerns a request for export licences for the supply of civilian training aircraft to a Jewish aviation company in Palestine. The Ministry of Supply have promised an answer in respect of four of the aircraft (one Proctor and three Ansons) by to-night. The matter is, therefore, urgent.

In addition to the arguments used by the Colonial Office in this letter, the Ministry of Supply state that if we cannot supply Palestine Airways with British types of aircraft for training their pilots we shall probably lose orders for aircraft amounting to possibly £1,500,000.

On the other hand, Palestine Airways is to some extent under the financial control of the Jewish Agency, and would certainly be in no position to resist any commands ~~it~~ might choose to give concerning the use of these aircraft. Although they are civilian types, they could no doubt play a part in the impending civil war in Palestine. Since it is our aim to localise this civil war as completely as possible and, if we can, to prevent the supply of armaments to either side, it is vitally important that we ourselves should be free from any suspicion that we have put lethal weapons into the hands of either Arabs or Jews.

I suggest that this political consideration should, in this instance, take precedence over the export possibilities to which the Ministry of Supply draw our attention, and that we should ask them to explain that, while we are willing, in principle, to assist Palestine Airways in the establishment of their services, we cannot supply aircraft for use in Palestine until the situation in that country is more stable.

*H. Bealey*  
 15th January, 1948.

*I agree.*  
*We might suggest that the training should take place here.*  
*26513 F.O.P.*  
*H. Bealey*  
*J. B. [Signature]*  
*15-1*  
*I agree*  
*PTO*  
*16-1*

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I informed Mr. Haynes of the  
Mr. A. J. Kelly (and the BTT  
who rang me up) of our  
negative decision recorded in  
the above minutes

J. S. Davis  
Jan 17

H.B. 17/1

9. P.P. P.O. Ltd to Police 163 15/1

H.B. 21/1

9. S. P.P. P.O. Ltd 245 21/1  
Motorist 145 21/1

H.B. 14/2

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3

I am sending copies of this letter to  
Dunnett, Ministry of Civil Aviation and Miss Steen  
Ministry of Supply.

Yours sincerely,

*John Higham*

(J. D. Higham)

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4

Colonial Office,  
The Church House,  
Great Smith Street,  
London, S.W.1.

My Reference 22923/25/48

Your Reference \_\_\_\_\_

348

15th January, 1948.

JAN

My dear Beeley,

We spoke this morning about a request from Messrs. Shackleton for export licences for aircraft to Palestine. The Ministry of Supply are most anxious to get a very early answer since arrangements have been made to ferry the aircraft out next week and any delay may prejudice the chances not only of the present deal but of further orders for new aircraft.

The proposition is that Shackletons will sell the aircraft to a British holding company, the Astra Overseas Trading Company, who in turn will lend them to Palestine Airways for training purposes.

The aircraft concerned are 1 Proctor, 3 Anson Mark I, 5 Tiger Moths and 1 Dominie. All these aircraft are identical with types used in this country for civil flying training.

For a long time the Palestine Government tried to organise an air operating company in Palestine in which Jewish and Arab interests would be equally represented. Their efforts were unsuccessful and the deadlock was ended last October, on the initiative of the Palestine Director of Civil Aviation, by the

/agreement

H. BEELEY, ESQ., C.B.E.

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648.648 71 INDEXED

E  
S

22925/25/48

Cypher (O.T.P.)

TO PALESTINE (Gen. Sir A. Cunningham)

Sent 15th January, 1948. 13.45 hrs.

IMMEDIATE  
No. 163 Secret.

Palestine Airways.

Messrs. Shackleton have applied for export licences for aircraft for above company to be ferried out next week. Aircraft would be on loan for training purposes. Shackletons anxious to accept because prospects future orders. Aircraft concerned are 1 Proctor, 3 Anson I, 5 Tiger Moths and 1 Dominie.

Departments concerned have been informed that Palestine Airways a bona fide commercial venture, and that although no guarantee can be given that aircraft would not be used for military purposes after the termination of Mandate, I see no objection to supply.

Copies sent to:-

- |                            |                  |
|----------------------------|------------------|
| Foreign Office             | - Mr. Beeley.    |
| " "                        | - Mr. Edden.     |
| Ministry of Supply         | - Miss Steen.    |
| Ministry of Civil Aviation | - Mr. Dunnett.   |
| " " " "                    | - Registry Tels. |

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**INWARD TELEGRAM**

6 p.w.  
E

TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES

648/648/71

Cypher (O.T.P.)

FROM PALESTINE (Gen. Sir A. Cunningham)

D. 21st January, 1948.  
R. 21st " " 18.15 hrs.

IMMEDIATE

No. 145 Secret.

Palestine Airways.

Aircraft specified in your No. 163 are considerably in excess of order for two Dominions placed by Palestine Airways not (repeat not) with Messrs Shackleton. There seems to be some confusion with Aviron, but matter is still under investigation here and I should be grateful if you could arrange to delay export in the meanwhile.

Copies sent to:-

Foreign Office	- Mr. Beeley.
" "	- Mr. Edden.
Ministry of Supply	- Miss Steen.
Ministry of Civil Aviation	- Mr. Dunnnett.
" " " "	- Registry Tels.

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E 648 / 648 R1

INDEXED E. 7

26 JAN 1948

OUTWARD TELEGRAM

22923/42/3/48

Cypher (O.T.P.)

TO PALESTINE (Gen. Sir A. Cunningham)

FROM S. OF S., COLONIES.

Sent 21st January, 1948. 16.30 hrs.

IMMEDIATE

No. 245 Secret.

Addressed to High Commissioner, Palestine.  
Repeated to B.M.E.O. No. 2 (for Air Vice Marshal  
Sir W. Havers).

My telegram No. 163.

Palestine Airways.

It has now been decided, for political reasons,  
to refuse export licences for these aircraft, although  
they are required for training for commercial purposes.

2. Should be grateful for early indication of your  
views on general question of importation of aircraft for  
these and other purposes since it is clear that refusal  
of export licences here will be ineffective if imports  
from other countries are permitted. Some imports may be  
necessary if local airlines are to be allowed to operate.  
Please also say whether import licences had been granted  
for aircraft mentioned in my telegram No. 163.

3. Report from News Chronicle correspondent  
dated Jerusalem Monday states that Army Disposals Board  
representatives have sold to Aviron 23 Auster aircraft.  
Planes stated to have been sold in open market to highest  
bidder, and that though not all serviceable, purchasers  
would be able to assemble from them eight or ten planes  
to form nucleus of Jewish State Air Force. Correspondent  
also states that negotiations are on foot for sale, also  
in open market, of armoured scout cars, mortars and other  
weapons.

4. Ministry of Supply have been asked to call for  
urgent report from Cairo. Grateful for any observations  
you may have. If, as I imagine, these reports are  
unfounded, you will no doubt take suitable steps to give  
widest publicity to this.

Copies sent to:-

Foreign Office	- Mr. Beeley.
Ministry of Supply	- Mr. E. Haynes.
" "	- Mr. W.J. Orr.
Foreign Office	- Mr. Edden.
Ministry of Civil Aviation	- Mr. L.J. Dunnett.
" " " "	- Registry Tels.

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FO 371 / 68646

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complete  
P. C. B.

1948

E

E 940

8

PALESTINE

22 JAN 1948

Registry Number E940/148/31

FROM E. Haynes

No. 11/Supply

Dated 8/Imp - 17/17

Received in Registry 19 Jan 22

Aircraft to Palestine

Refer to letter (E148/648/11) transmitt copy of letter which has been sent to those who have said concerning them that the great majority of export licenses cannot be recommended at the present time. Give his own view on this navigational pass and question whether action will indeed prevent the supply of other equipment. Only comment.

Last Paper.

648

(Minutes.)

In this case it is irrelevant - from an F.O. point of view - whether the Zionists get aeroplanes from elsewhere or not. The overriding considerations are that H.M.G. should:

- (i) not depart from their attitude of neutrality by equipping either side in Palestine;
- (ii) remain in a position to persuade other governments against supplying either side.

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

China Dept for any obs.

Mr Haynes' letter to me of the 15th December last is being dealt with on Far Eastern (China) Green papers; these are now in action but I have marked them for Eastern Dept. to see. I agree that there is no valid parallel between Palestine and China. China is more comparable with Greece, in that there is a Central Govt which all the Powers including ourselves recognize, and a Communist faction in a state of hostilities with that Govt. If any more info is immediately required, I shall be glad to discuss the matter orally.

H. Bealey 221

Mr. Sec A 23/1

(Action completed.)

[Signature]

(Index.)

[Signature]

Next Paper.

1044

I agree with Mr Bealey

[Signature]

[Signature]

23.1 Y. M. M. 24.1

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L.H. 16.

TELEGRAMS : AIRPROD, LONDON.

TELEPHONE : FRANKLIN 2211.

Ext. 3317

MINISTRY OF SUPPLY,



Our Ref. 8/Imp & Exp/37

Your Ref. \_\_\_\_\_

5 940

MILLBANK,

S.W.1.

22 JAN 1948 January, 1948.

Dear Beeley,

Further to Higham's letter to you of the 14th January and to our recent telephone conversations regarding the proposed supply of aircraft and aeronautical equipment to Palestine by W.S. Shackleton Ltd., I enclose a copy of a letter I have sent to the firm informing them that the grant of export licences cannot be recommended at the present time.

I am not very happy about this decision. You may perhaps be aware of a recent case in which your Office refused to allow the sale of aircraft and engines to the Chinese Government with the result that the order was obtained by the Canadians, whose authorities apparently saw no reason to oppose the transaction. In the present instance, I fear that there is a strong possibility that the Palestine company may turn to American, French, Czech or even Dominion sources from which they may well be able to obtain the same or very similar types of aircraft and equipment. As I have pointed out in my letter of the 15th December to Scott of your Far Eastern Department, regarding the Chinese case, it is not difficult to overlook a commercial loss when it results from an arms-traffic embargo which is more or less effective, but here we may be suffering commercial loss without stopping the supply of the equipment in question.

I should be grateful for your comments.

I am copying this letter to Higham (C.R.O), Couldry (Board of Trade), Dunnett (M.C.A), Wing Commander Freeman (Air Ministry) and Cardo (Admiralty).

Yours sincerely,

*[Handwritten signature]*

H. Beeley, Esq., C.B.E.,  
Eastern Department,  
Foreign Office,  
London,  
S.W.1.

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EL.

COPY.

16

Ex. 43/46/Air 3(b).  
WHB/5071.

16th January, 1948.

For the attention of J. Beard, Esq.

Gentlemen,

I am directed by the Minister of Supply to refer to the visit of your representatives to this Department to-day regarding export licence applications submitted by your company to the Board of Trade in respect of aircraft and aeronautical equipment destined for Palestine.

In confirmation of the information given to your representatives, I am to state that the following applications have been referred to this Department by the Board of Trade for comment and support but that we are unable to recommend the granting of the licences at the present time:

<u>Your reference.</u>	<u>Item.</u>
SM/3/22/47	One D.H. Tiger Moth aircraft
SM/2/22/47	One D.H. Tiger Moth aircraft.
SM/1/22/47	One D.H. Tiger Moth aircraft
SM/24/1	One D.H. Tiger Moth aircraft
SM/24/2	One Tiger Moth aircraft D.H.
SM/7/1/48/3	Three Avro Anson Mk. I aircraft
SM/8/1/48/1	One Percival Proctor aircraft
SM/7/1/48/4	Two Gipsy Major Aero engines
SM/7/1/48/7	Two Cheetah IX Aero engines
SM/7/1/48/5	24 Outer Covers for Tiger Moth aircraft
	24 Inner Covers for Tiger Moth aircraft.
SM/7/1/48/8	2 Outer Covers, Tail Wheel for Anson aircraft
	2 Inner Tubes, Main Wheel for Anson aircraft
SM/7/1/48/6	6 Outer Covers, Main Wheel for Anson aircraft
	6 Inner Tubes, Main Wheel for Anson aircraft
	4 Outer Covers, Tail Wheel for Anson aircraft
SM/9/1/48/51	One D.H. 89 Rapide aircraft
SM/9/1/48/2	One D.H. Tiger Moth aircraft
SM/9/1/48/4	One D.H. Tiger Moth aircraft
SM/9/1/48/1	One D.H. Tiger Moth aircraft
SM/9/1/48/3	One D.H. Tiger Moth aircraft

I am, Gentlemen,  
Your obedient Servant,

(Sgd) E. HAYNES.

W.S. Shackleton, Ltd.,  
175, Piccadilly,  
London,  
W.1.

Copies to: E.L.B. Board of Trade  
(Mr. J.H.E. Biggs)  
E.L.B. Board of Trade  
(Mr. W. Hadlow).

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E

E 1044

24 JAN 1948

1948

PALESTINE

Registry Number E 1044/648/31  
 FROM My Supply Command.  
 No.  
 Dated 24 Jan  
 Received in Registry 24 Jan

*Supply of Aircraft to Palestine*  
 copy of STONE DISMIL TEL 829 L.R.M.K.O. of 21 Jan.  
 FO. concerned at reports of sale of aircraft to Iraq and Jordan. Suspended action in kind of all aircraft sales and report fully.

Last Paper. 940  
 References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)  
 rept. Mr Newling Cabinet Office from Mr Bealey.  
 Jan 26  
 rept. Mr Newling Cab Off from Mr Bealey 29 Jan

(Action completed.)  
 (Ind...)  
 [Signatures]

Next Paper. 1056

(Minutes.)  
 Please see also a draft minute from the SFS to the Prime Minister, behind this paper.  
 The M. of Supply have not yet had an answer to their telegram, and are not responsible for the report in this morning's press that the aircraft have already been delivered. The report may nevertheless be true, and I have asked Mr Mathison and Col. Shastri to a meeting at 11 a.m. on Monday, in order that we may consider whether there is any way of recovering the planes after delivery.

H. Bealey 24/1  
 J. B. [Signature] 24.1  
 [Signature] 24.1  
 I want to talk about this  
 Jan 26 [Signature] 26.1 PTO

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Please now see:

- (i) B.M.E.O. telegram ~~of~~ confirming the disposal of d. Amstres.
- (ii) B.M.E.O. telegram asking whether they may dispose of more. They have been told not to.
- (iii) My letter to Mr. Newling, covering a telegram which he has now sent.

H.B. 207,

Further letter to Mr Newling submitted. I understand from Mr Bealey that Sir O. Sargent wanted this action taken

Mrs. Davis  
Jan 24

H.B. 207  
11

En-P.P. M/Kelly tel H.M.E.O. STONE DUSME 242 29/1  
- B.M.E.O. 2129 31/1

H.B. 37  
12

En-P.P. W.I.O.M. M/Kelly 12/SALES/O'neas/98  
+ Mr Bealey 5/2

I think we could probably agree to the completion of this transaction, since the Disports Mission are reasonably satisfied that  
/the

Del, W York 1416  
Rptd New York, 496  
Paris 182  
Bagdad 184  
Teldda 81  
Beirut 76  
Damascus 62  
Amman 65  
B.M.E.O. 108  
Feb -4

Del, W York 1417  
New York 491  
Paris 183  
Bagdad 185  
Teldda 82  
Beirut 76  
Damascus 63  
Amman 66  
B.M.E.O. 109  
Feb 4

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the plans in question would be just to a legitimate use in Egypt. But I think it is covered by the Prime Minister's recent direction, and that the Ministry of Supply must therefore put up a case for the approval of the S/S, Colonial Secretary and Minister of Defence. See also my minutes on E1415.

H.B. Bealey 11/2

T. J. Ryan

L. P. L. Ryan  
14/2

~~ASB~~

14. ✓

In P.P. B.M.K.O. Col to My Supply. 159 510 W.C. DISME 14/2

Mr. Carr informed of our views by telephone

H.B. 15/2

Nothing to be Written in this Margin.

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PALESTINEA Draft Minute from the Secretary of State to the  
Prime Minister

Rumours appeared in the British Press at the beginning of this week to the effect that the War Disposals Board in the Middle East had sold twenty-one Auster Aircraft (these are two-seater reconnaissance planes) to a Company controlled by the Jewish Agency for Palestine. My Department at once requested the Ministry of Supply to issue instructions that all action on sales of aircraft should be suspended and a report submitted. The Ministry of Supply took this action, but have not yet received any official information from the Middle East.

It is now reported, in the Daily Herald and Daily Telegraph of this morning, that the Ministry of Supply telegram arrived too late and that the aircraft have already been delivered and taken to Tel-Aviv.

This sale, if it is true that it has been completed, is entirely contrary to the policy of His Majesty's Government, which is to withhold supplies of arms and all warlike material from both Arabs and Jews in Palestine. It would give rise to serious resentment against us in Arab countries, and will make it more difficult for me to dissuade the Arab Government from taking precipitate action in Palestine.

In order that similar incidents may be avoided in the future, I hope you will feel able to issue a directive to the effect that all transactions involving the disposal of material of military value <sup>for use in</sup> ~~in or to~~ the Middle East must in future be cleared personally by the Minister of Defence, the Secretary of State for the Colonies and myself (or in my absence you).

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I am sending copies of this minute to the  
Minister of Defence, the Secretary of State for  
the Colonies and the Minister of Supply.

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E 1

22 JAN 1948

Encl. E 14

Stow Disme 329

ER CYPHER TELEGRAM  
To B.M.E.O. Cairo from M.of Supply.  
Sent 5-0 p.m. 21.1.48.

STOW DISME 329 Secret.

For Havers from Orr.

Foreign Office concerned at reports of sale of aircraft  
Haganah and Aviron Co. Suspend action in hand of all aircraft  
sales and report fully. Urgent.

O.T.P.

Distribution:

Originator - P/O.D.

Information. A.S/O.D.,

O.D.2.

F.2.

F.O. (Mr. Beeley)

A.D. of D. (A.4) (Mr. Anthony)

E 104

24 JAN 1948

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*Enclair*

*4-2-48*

27 JAN 1948

15

ER ENCLAIR TELEGRAM Stow Disme 2122  
From B.M.E.O. Cairo to M.of Supply.  
Dated 26.1.48. received 11-30 a.m. 27.1.48.

STOW DISME 2122

Ref. my Stow Disme 2118.

May we proceed with completion of sale and delivery of items at para.4(D).

Distribution:  
Action copy to P/O.D.  
Information. A.S/O.D., O.D.2.,  
F.2.,  
F.O. (Mr. Beeley) ✓  
A.D.of.D. (n.4) Mr. Anthony.

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Cypher/OTP

S T O W

FROM BRITISH MIDDLE EAST OFFICE CAIRO TO

MINISTRY OF SUPPLY

No. 2118 STOW DISME

23rd January 1948.

D. 5.43 p.m. 23rd January 1948.  
R. 6.14 p.m. 23rd January 1948.

IMMEDIATE

Reference Stow Disme 829.

Sales of aircraft have been carried out on your authorities F/A/54/5/D(111A) and F/A/31/D(111A) dated respectively 8th February and 29th April 1947.

Aircraft declared by R.A.F. on 14th July 1947 - see our 300/227/D114 dated 23rd August 1947.

Progress of sales reported under 300/227 etc. dated 31st December 1947 replied to in your 12/Sales/A/26,182/D(111A) dated 12th January 1948.

Reported in my 300/227/D111A dated 19th July full details of sale of all aircraft. All located in Egypt have been sold as follows

(a) Six Magister Egyptian Air Force and two Auster 5 to Egyptian Mines Department

(b) Six Oxford one to Ahmed Esmat El Gamal Cairo who is army contractor for delivery of mail etc. from Egypt to Palestine and

(c) Eight Sea Otter to Squadron Leader J. Patient 15 Crescent Lane, Clapham Common S.W. and

(d) Seven Auster 5 and one Walrus 1 to Samir Zul [grp. undec.] ear Bey contractor on behalf of Arab interests.

Sales of (a), (b), (c) completed and cannot suspend. (d) no delivery notes and action suspended.

Machines located in Palestine, eighteen Auster 5, two Auster 3, and one Oxford have been sold to Aviron Palestine Aviation Company P.O.B. 834 Tel Aviv. All were collected on 21st January and 22nd January. Have instructed our Jerusalem Office to inform Palestine Government direct and follow any instructions they may give.

rrrrrr

DISTRIBUTION

ACTION COPY TO... O.D.2.  
A.S/O.D., O.D.2.,  
INFORMATION... E.2., FO (Mr. Beeley)  
A.D. of D. (A.4)  
(Mr. Anthony).

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE					
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Reference:-					
FO 371 / 68646					
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Registry  
No. E 1044/648/31

Top Secret.
Secret.
Confidential.
Restricted. ✓
Open.

*Draft.*  
Mr. Newling,  
Cabinet Offices.

From:-  
Mr. H. Beeley.

*Mr. Beeley  
Jan 29*

17 29/5  
FOREIGN OFFICE, S.W.1.

29th January, 1948.

Will you please refer to my letter of 26th January enclosing a draft telegram for despatch to General Hewer about the disposal of the 21 Austers.

2. Sir Orme Sargent has pointed out that the telegram which has been sent off, while emphasising the importance of avoiding any similar incident in future, does not specifically instruct General Hewer to refer doubtful cases back to London. I therefore attach a short draft, as you suggested to Beith which might be sent as a chaser to the earlier telegram.

*H.B. 29/1*

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

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Registry No.

Draft.

Telegram.

No. ....

(Date) .....

Repeat to :-

En Clair.  
Code.  
Cypher.

Distribution :-

Copies to :-

Top Secret.  
Secret.  
Confidential.  
Restricted.  
Open.

F. O., 18

194 . M.

Despatched

Following for General Hewer.

My telegram No. of

should have stated specifically that any doubtful cases should be referred to London for decision. In view of the difficulty of defining the categories of stores, the disposal of which may <sup>Cause</sup> ~~arouse~~ political repercussions, this <sup>seems</sup> ~~is~~ the safest procedure.

H.B. 297 / 1

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FOREIGN OFFICE, S.W.1.

29th January, 1948. 19

(E 1044/648/31)

*Dear Newling*

Will you please refer to my letter of 26th January enclosing a draft telegram for despatch to General Hewer about the disposal of the 21 Austers.

2. Sir Orme Sargent has pointed out that the telegram which has been sent off, while emphasising the importance of avoiding any similar incident in future, does not specifically instruct General Hewer to refer doubtful cases back to London. I therefore attach a short draft, as you suggested to Beith which might be sent as a chaser to the earlier telegram.

*Your sincerely*

(H. Beeley)

A.J. Newling Esq., C.B.E., M.V.O., T.D.,  
Cabinet Offices.

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E 1044/648/31

FOREIGN OFFICE, S.W.1.  
29th January, 1948.

Following for General Hewer. 20

Draft.

Telegram.

No.....

(Date).....

Repeat to:-

My telegram No.          of  
should have stated specifically that any  
doubtful cases should be referred to  
London for decision. In view of the  
difficulty of defining the categories of  
stores, the disposal of which may cause  
political repercussions, this seems the  
safest procedure.

*Paris ..*

*F.O. Mr. Bealey*

*F.O. Mr. Mather*

*W.O. Mr. Charteris*

*My Supply. Mr. ...*

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E1044/648/31

**CUT FILE**

21

FOREIGN OFFICE, S.W.1.

26th January, 1948.

Dear Newling,

You will have seen that 21uster aircraft have been sold by the British Stores Disposals Mission in the Middle East to a company controlled by the Jewish Agency for Palestine.

The Foreign Secretary takes a most serious view of this incident. It is true that the 1uster is a small and unarmed plane, but the possession of a score of these by one side when the other has no aircraft at all might be of immense advantage in the type of warfare now beginning in Palestine. The transaction is therefore likely to give rise to considerable resentment in the Arab countries, and to reduce our chances of persuading Arab Governments not to intervene directly in Palestine. It will also be an embarrassment if we decide to use our influence with other powers in the direction of isolating the conflict in Palestine and preventing the shipment of arms to the combatants from any quarter.

A meeting took place in the Foreign Office this morning, at which representatives of the Colonial Office, the War Office and the Ministry of Supply agreed that I should request you to send General Hewer a telegram on the lines of the enclosed draft. The text has been approved by the three Departments I have mentioned and I shall be grateful if, provided you agree, you will send it through your usual channel.

Yours sincerely,

(SGD.) H. BEELEY.

A. J. Newling, Esq., C.B.E.,  
M.V.O., T.D.,  
Cabinet Offices,  
S.W.1.

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Registry

No. E1044/648/3

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Secret.  
Confidential.  
Restricted.  
Open.

Draft. telegram

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

3148 Wt. 26469/137 100m 9/46 (51) F.&S.

22

Following for General Hower.

Ministers are greatly concerned by the news that 21 Austers have been disposed of in Palestine to a company controlled by the Jewish Agency. It is true that the Auster is a small and unarmed 'plane, but the possession of a score of these by one side when the other side has none may be a major factor in the type of fighting which we anticipate between Arabs and Jews in Palestine.

2. We also realise that all material which is being sold by the British Stores Disposals Mission is in some sense of military value, and that consequently a complete prohibition on sales of stores of military value in Palestine would mean that the Mission could not dispose of anything at all. A line has to be drawn between ordinary stores and special supplies which may affect the military issue and the disposal of which to one side may cause bitter resentment on the other.

3. We do not feel able to define this line more precisely in London, and must leave it to your discretion and that of the Disposals Mission, with which we understand you have already established liaison. For your guidance, however, the sale of these aircraft is particularly unfortunate because it is headlined in the world's press, and because it will consequently add greatly to the difficulties of the Foreign Secretary, who is  
/trying...

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trying to dissuade the Arab Governments from intervening directly in Palestine.

4. Please therefore examine the situation in consultation with the Disposals Mission, in order to make sure that no similar incident occurs during the remaining period of our withdrawal from Palestine.

5. *We are considering separately whether*  
~~Is there anything that~~ can be done to neutralize the effect of the disposal of these aircraft to the Jews? ~~The only suggestion that occurs to us here is that the operation of the planes might be impeded~~  
*Meanwhile they should be denied all*  
~~by denial of spares and assistance with~~ servicing.

b. *Ministry of Supply ask that any categories of material <sup>on</sup> which an embargo is imposed should no longer be declared surplus by the Service in Palestine*

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

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**FO 371 / 68646**

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ER ENCLAIR TELEGRAM Stow Disme 2129  
From S.M.E.O. Cairo to M.of Supply.  
Dated 30.1.48. received 10-15 a.m. 31.1.48.

*pw.*  
*E23*

STOW DISME 2129

31 JAN 1948

Ref. Stow Disme 342.

**INDEXED**

Confirm your instructions understood. 1044 648 21

Distribution:  
Action copy to ...S/O.D.,  
Information. I/O.,  
C.I.2.,  
F.2.  
S.D. of D.A.4 (Mr. Anthony)  
F.O. (Mr. Seeley) ✓

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE

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Reference:-  
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1044 648 21  
-2 FEB 1948

*Encl*  
29 JAN 1948

ER ENCLAIR TELEGRAM  
To B.M.E.O. Cairo from M.of Supply.  
Sent 4-0 p.m. 29.1.48.

Stow Disme 842

STOW DISME 842

Further to Stow Disme 838. Ministry have given undertaking that no further sale of aircraft shall take place without F.O. consultation. Please confirm this understood.

Distribution:  
Originator - A.3/O.D.  
Information. P/O.D., O.D.2.,  
F.2.,  
A.D.of D.A.4 (Mr. Anthony)  
F.O. (Mr. Beeley)

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Draft.

Date

Despatch

17 p 13

Policy on the Supply of Arms to Palestine

MOST IMMEDIATE

Parliamentary Question to be asked on the 4th February.

My immediate preceding telegram following is text.

98. Sir Jocelyn Lucas To ask the Minister of Defence if the Auster aeroplanes sold in Palestine by His Majesty's Government are capable of military use, and if he will give a definite assurance that no arms, munition or material that can be used for warlike purposes will be sold by His Majesty's Government to either disputant in that area."

Tel. to  
Washington

✓ 4.17

Feb 4<sup>th</sup> Draft Answer

Report to  
UK 74 New York  
Cairo 183.

Budget 135.  
Jeha 88 (C+U)  
Bright 77.

Danzon 63.  
Amman 66.  
BYEO 109.  
Jerusalem.

Sypher W  
Washington

Enclav W  
other parts  
at 3.30  
and not  
earlier.

Political

recently

The Auster aircraft/sold to the Aviron Palestine Aviation Company were not only demilitarised before disposal, but were all in an unserviceable condition.

Their sale was consequently not inconsistent with the policy of denying warlike material to both Arabs and Jews in Palestine. Since, however, it is possible to adapt civil aircraft for military use, steps have now been taken to ensure that no British planes will pass into Arab or Jewish hands in Palestine so long as there is danger of civil war in that country.

Disposal is at present proceeding of large quantities of surplus military supplies in Palestine which are of a non-warlike nature and which have a civilian use; it is not proposed to discontinue the sales of these stores. Every possible precaution is being taken to ensure that surplus warlike material does not pass into the hands of Jews or Arabs in that country.

There is at present an embargo on the entry into Palestine, both by sea and over the land frontiers, of all warlike material. The Government of Palestine will enforce this embargo to the best of their ability until the Mandate comes to an end on the 15th May.

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Reference: **FO 371 / 68646**

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OUT FILE

26

It is also the policy of H.M. Government to refuse permission for the export of military material from Great Britain to any part of the Middle East, except under existing contracts which have been undertaken as a result of our Treaty obligations to certain Arab Governments. H.M. Government have no reason to suppose that the material supplied by them under such contracts will be used in Palestine.

H.B. 4/2

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Cypher/OTP

POLITICAL DISTRIBUTION

FROM FOREIGN OFFICE TO WASHINGTON

No. 1417

D. 3.16 p.m. 4th February, 1948.

4th February, 1948.

Repeated to New York (U.K.Del)	No. 491
Cairo	No. 183
Bagdad	No. 135
Jedda	No. 82
Beirut	No. 77
Damascus	No. 63
Amman	No. 66
Cairo B.M.E.O.	No. 109
Jerusalem	

MOST IMMEDIATE

My immediately preceding telegram. Following is text.

"Sir Jocelyn Lucas - To ask the Minister of Defence if the Auster aeroplanes sold in Palestine by His Majesty's Government are capable of military use, and if he will give a definite assurance that no arms, munition or material that can be used for warlike purposes will be sold by His Majesty's Government to either disputant in that area"

Answer

The Auster aircraft recently sold to the Aviron Palestine Aviation Company were not only demilitarised before disposal, but were all in an unserviceable condition. Their sale was consequently not inconsistent with the policy of denying warlike material to both Arabs and Jews in Palestine. Since, however, it is possible to adapt civil aircraft for military use, steps have now been taken to ensure that no British aircraft will pass into Arab or Jewish hands in Palestine so long as there is danger of civil war in that country.

Disposal is at present proceeding of large quantities of surplus military supplies in Palestine which are of a non-warlike nature and which have a civilian use; it is not proposed to discontinue the sales of these stores. Every possible precaution is being taken to ensure that surplus warlike material does not pass into the hands of Jews or Arabs in that country.

There is at present an embargo on the entry into Palestine, both by sea and over the land frontiers, of all warlike material. The Government of Palestine will enforce this embargo to the best of their ability until the Mandate comes to an end on the 15th May.

It is also the policy of His Majesty's Government to refuse permission for the export of military material from Great Britain to any part of the Middle East, except under existing contracts which have been undertaken as a result of our Treaty obligations to certain Arab Governments. His Majesty's Government have no reason to suppose that the material supplied by them under such contracts will be used in Palestine.

///

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CYP R A 28  
H.B. F.O. February, 1948  
M. 1

Despatched

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

MOST IMMEDIATE.

SECRET

Draft.  
Washington.

Telegram

No. 416

Date. Feb. 4<sup>th</sup>

Repeat Immediate to:

U.K. Delegation,

New York, 496.

Cairo, 182.

Bagdad, 137.

Jedda, 81.

Beirut, 76.

Damascus, 62.

Amman, 65.

B.M.E.O., 108.

Jerusalem.

Cypher.

Distribution

Political.

Addressed to Washington telegram No. 1416  
of February 4<sup>th</sup> repeated for information to  
U.K. Delegation, New York, Cairo, Bagdad,  
Jedda, Beirut, Damascus, Amman, B.M.E.O.  
and Jerusalem.

My immediately following telegram  
contains the text of a question which will  
be put to the Minister of Defence in the  
House of Commons this afternoon, the 4th  
February, and of the Minister's answer.

2. Please convey the text to Lovett at  
once, and arrange for the fullest possible  
publicity after 3.30 p.m. London time.

[Cairo ...]  
7.13. 4/2  
Iss immediate to Cairo as  
10804

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29

[This telegram is of particular secrecy and should be retained by the authorised recipient and not passed on].

Cypher/OTP

POLITICAL DISTRIBUTION.

FROM FOREIGN OFFICE TO WASHINGTON.

No. 1416

4th February 1948. D. 3 p.m. 4th February 1948

Repeated to U.K. Delegation New York No. 490	}	Immediate.
Cairo No. 182		
Bagdad No. 134		
Jedda No. 81		
Beirut No. 76		
Damascus No. 62		
Amman No. 65		
B.M.E.O. Cairo No. 108		
Jerusalem	}	

MOST IMMEDIATE.  
SECRET.

Addressed to Washington telegram No. 1416 of February 4th repeated for information to United Kingdom Delegation New York, Cairo, Bagdad, Jedda, Beirut, Damascus, Amman, British Middle East Office Cairo, and Jerusalem.

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2. Please convey the text to Levett at once, and arrange for the fullest possible publicity after 3.30 p.m. London time.

V V V

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WJO/JS

L.H.138.

Telegrams: Splycontra Wire,  
London.  
Telephone: Victoria 3811.  
Extn. 276

Any communication on the  
subject of this letter should be  
addressed to:—

THE SECRETARY

and the following reference  
quoted:—

12/Sales/O'Seas/98

OVERSEAS DISPOSALS



MINISTRY OF SUPPLY,  
ROOM 449  
Gt. Westminster House,  
HORSEFERRY ROAD,  
S.W.1.

5th February, 1948.

Your Ref.

Dear Beeley,

1044 648 21

May I refer to our recent 'phone  
conversations regarding the sale of aircraft  
in Palestine (and Egypt). We shall be glad to  
have your early agreement to the completion of  
the contract for the sale of seven Auster 5  
and one Walrus 1 referred to at (d) in  
STOWDISME 118 of the 23rd January.

Yours sincerely,

W. J. ORR.

H. Beeley Esq.,  
Foreign Office,  
Downing Street,  
S.W.1.

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p.w. 31  
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1044.648 21

Cypher/OTP

S T O W

FROM B.M.E.O. CAIRO TO MINISTRY OF SUPPLY

No. 159 Stow Disme

14th February, 1948

D. 12.00 noon 14th February, 1948  
R. 2.05 p.m. 14th February, 1948

Further my 2,118.

Decision required whether sale of seven Auster and one Walrus to Samir Zulficar Bey can proceed or is to be cancelled.

- 2. Deposit held full purchase price offered is £E.3300.-
- 3. Fifteen tenders received.
- 4. In view of previous sales and latest comments of the High Commissioner Palestine suggest sale should proceed.
- 5. See my letter dated January 19th for details of aircraft sales.

888

**DISTRIBUTION**

ACTION COPY TO P/O D

INFORMATION O.P. 2

File No. AS/O D

F2  
F.O. (Mr Bealey) —  
AD/O D (A4)  
(Mr Anthony)

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1948

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E 1243/32

PALESTINE

28 JAN 1948

Registry Number

E1243/148/31

FROM

60

No.

60

Dated

Received in Registry

28 Jan

*Auster, Airways, Sale of Aircraft to Arab*

*60 of 309 of 24 Jan. My supply confirmed sale of 21 Auster aircraft to Arab, latter took delivery on 21 Jan. \$11 greatly increased no effect on Arab States, like operations with a view to recovery situation.*

Last Paper.

1056

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

*Opt. Dis. T. Lloyd. 80  
from Sir O. Sargent  
28 Jan*

(Action completed.)

*J.E.M. 7/2*

(Index)

*[Signature]*  
*10/2/48*

Next Paper.

1360

(Minutes.)

*9. P.P. P. 182 25/1  
190 24/1*

The Lebanese Minister has just called on me to express his concern at the effect in Lebanon and other Arab countries of the news that our Disposals Mission in the Middle East have sold 21 Auster aircraft to the Jews. He handed me the report, which has been received from the Arab office in Palestine, and which I have attached behind this paper to show how suspicious the Arabs are of anything which they can interpret as a sign of British partiality towards the Jews. He feels that confidence in us, not only among the Palestine Arabs but throughout the Arab countries, must have been very seriously shaken by the disposal of the Austers. He believes very strongly that recovery of these planes by the Palestine Government would have an effect in restoring confidence out of all proportion with their intrinsic value, and urged that we should do everything possible to recover them.

We had already decided to approach the Colonial Office on this matter, and I now submit a draft letter to them, covering a draft telegram to Jerusalem.

We must take into account the bearing of any action we take in this matter on our responsibility for the American request which we have now received for suspension of the delivery of arms, to the Arab States. On the one hand a recovery of the Austers would provide the American Zionists with another anti-British cry and so increase the pressure on the State Department. But on the other hand, failure to recover them will, I think, appreciably diminish our chances of persuading the Arab Governments to agree to a temporary suspension of deliveries.

*H. Beeley*  
H. Beeley.

28th January, 1948.

*Letter to Sir T. Lloyd signed by Sir O.*

*Sargent and sent JB Jan 28  
(with draft tel.)*

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33

**INWARD TELEGRAM**

TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES

Cypher(O.T.P.)

**FROM PALESTINE**(Gen. Sir A.Cunningham)

D. 26th January, 1948.  
R. 26th " " 16.40 hrs.

**IMMEDIATE**

No.190 Secret

Addressed to S. of S.  
Repeated to British Middle East Office No.19  
(for Air Vice Marshal Havers).

Your secret telegram No.245.

Palestine Airways.

You will now have had my secret telegram No.182 which makes it clear that sale of aircraft to Aviron was a normal transaction. I am further informed by B.M.E.O. that no (repeat no) sales of armoured scout cars, mortars and other weapons are being negotiated. These items will not (repeat not) be sold and B.S.D.O. have been instructed to consult this Government in future before any sales of defence material are made.

2. The question of issue of import licences for aircraft is under consideration in consultation with the D.C.A. in the light of paragraph 2 of your telegram under reference. Steps will be taken to ensure that only imports designed to meet strictly civil needs of local airlines are permitted.

3. I am arranging for suitable publicity to be given to the facts of this case.

Copies sent to:-

Foreign Office	- Mr. Beeley.
Ministry of Supply	- Mr. E. Haynes.
" "	- Mr. W.J. Orr.
Foreign Office	- Mr. Adden.
Ministry of Civil Aviation	- Mr. L.J. Dunnett
" " " "	- Registry Tels.

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INWARD TELEGRAM

34

TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES

Cypher (O.T.P.)

IMMEDIATE

FROM PALESTINE (Gen. Sir A. Cunningham)

D. 25th January, 1948.  
R. 25th " " 15.15 hrs.

IMMEDIATE  
No. 182 Secret.

Addressed to S. of S.  
Repeated to B.M.E.O. Cairo (for Air Vice Marshal  
Sir W. Havers, No. 18).

Your telegram No. 309.

Sale of aircraft to Aviron.

My information is that this sale was effected through Middle East Disposals and as part of a long term policy. This Government was not consulted. I understand further that the sale was effected in the open market after extracts to tender had been sent to the Arabs as well as to other purchasing concerns.

In these circumstances, and provided the truth is known, I do not feel that there need be undesirable reaction.

Copies sent to:-

Foreign Office  
Ministry of Supply  
" " "  
Foreign Office  
Ministry of Civil Aviation  
" " " "

- Mr. Beeley.  
- Mr. E. Haynes.  
- Mr. W.J. Orr.  
- Mr. Edden.  
- Mr. L.J. Dunnett.  
- Registry Tels.

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				2	

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE

Reference:-  
**FO 371 / 68646**

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INWARD TELEGRAM

35

TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES

22923/42/3/48

Cypher (O.T.P.)

E 1243

28 JAN 1948

TO PALESTINE (Gen. Sir A. Cunningham)

Sent 24th January, 1948. 22.00 hrs.

IMMEDIATE

No. 309 Secret.

Addressed to High Commissioner, Palestine.  
Repeated to B.M.E.O. No. 2 (for Air Vice Marshal  
Sir W. Havers).

My telegram No. 245.

Palestine Airways.

Ministry of Supply now confirm sale of  
21 aircraft to Aviron. Latter took delivery on  
21st January. Foreign Office gravely concerned about  
effect of this on Arab States and I should be grateful for  
your observations if possible by Monday morning and any  
suggestions for retrieving the situation.

Copies sent to:-

Foreign Office	- Mr. Beeley.
" "	- Mr. Edden.
Ministry of Supply	- Mr. E. Haynes.
" "	- Mr. W.J. Orr.
Ministry of Civil Aviation	- Mr. L.J. Dunnett.
" "	- Registry Tels.

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Reference:-  
**FO 371 / 68646**

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Registry  
No.

Top Secret.  
Secret.  
Confidential.  
Restricted.  
Open.

H.B.

Draft.

JERUSALEM.

Telegram.

No.....

(Date).....

Repeat to:—

B.M.E.O.

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

~~Ex-Clar.~~

~~Cable~~

Cypher.

Distribution:—

Copies to:—

*Note for dispatch*

35A

F.O.,

28th January

1948.

Despatched

M.

**IMMEDIATE  
SECRET.**

Your telegram No. 190.

Ministers are gravely concerned by the consequences of the disposal of these aircraft. There is evidence of strong resentment in the Arab States at what must seem to them a major departure from our policy of neutrality. The fact that we have disposed of these planes also makes it more difficult for the Foreign Secretary to argue in favour of the maintenance of the U.S. embargo on supplies of arms, or to hold back the Arab Governments from open intervention in Palestine.

2. I have, therefore, agreed to examine urgently the possibility of recovering these planes. If you have power to requisition you should at once endeavour to do so unless you see overwhelming objections to this course. If you consider such action impossible I should be glad to know what alternative proposals you have for <sup>im-</sup> mobilising these aircraft, permanently if possible but at least until the Mandate has terminated.

*H. Bealy  
24/11*

*SG Jan 28*

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Registry  
No.

FOREIGN OFFICE, S.W.1

36

28th January, 1948.

Top Secret.  
Secret.  
Confidential.  
Restricted.  
Open.

Draft.

Sir T. Lloyd, C.M.G. Palestine of 21 Auster aircraft. Since  
Colonial Office.

From:

Sir Orme Sargent.

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

H. Bealey 29/1

I believe our two Departments have been in consultation on the situation created by the recent sale to ~~the~~<sup>a</sup> Jewish company in Palestine of 21 Auster aircraft. Since the United Nations took a decision on Palestine which has ~~confirmed~~<sup>confirmed</sup> ~~the~~<sup>the</sup> whole Arab world, we have been trying to dissuade the Arab Governments from adding to the High Commissioner's difficulties in Palestine. We are now faced with ~~the~~<sup>a</sup> serious threat that the United States Government may lift in favour of the Jews the embargo which they imposed on the 5th December on all shipments of arms to the Middle East. If these efforts are to succeed we must be able to show that we have not offended ourselves by supplying either side in Palestine with equipment of substantial military value. In the case of the Arabs, it is useless for us to attempt to influence their policy unless they can be made to feel that we are doing nothing to assist the United Nations and the Jewish Agency in implementing the plan of partition.

2. News of the disposal of these 21 Austers must seem to the Arabs to be a major departure from our policy of neutrality, and an indication of pro-Zionist sympathy; it is useless, so far as public opinion in the Arab States is concerned, to explain that the sale occurred owing to a technical inadvertence and is not an expression of the policy of H.M. Government.

3. It does not seem to us that <sup>the</sup> damage done by this transaction can be repaired short of

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physical recovery of the planes. I, therefore, hope you will agree to send a telegram to the High Commissioner asking him to examine urgently/ the possibility of recovering them, and if he thinks this impossible to make alternative proposals. I enclose a draft ~~note~~ <sup>you</sup> indicating the lines on which we should like ~~him~~ to approach the High Commissioner.

*JP*  
Jan 28

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

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28th January, 1948.

I believe our two departments have been in consultation on the situation created by the recent sale to a Jewish company in Palestine of 21 Auster aircraft. Since the United Nations took a decision on Palestine which has aroused the whole Arab world, we have been trying to dissuade the Arab Governments from adding to the High Commissioner's difficulties in Palestine. We are now faced with a serious threat that the United States Government may lift in favour of the Jews the embargo which they imposed on the 5th December on all shipments of arms to the Middle East. If these efforts are to succeed we must be able to show that we have not ourselves offended by supplying either side in Palestine with equipment of substantial military value. In the case of the Arabs, it is useless for us to attempt to influence their policy unless they can be made to feel that we are doing nothing to assist the United Nations and the Jewish Agency in implementing the plan of partition.

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It does not seem to us that the damage done by this transaction can be repaired short of physical recovery of

Thomas Lloyd, K.C.M.G.

the /

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the pannes. I therefore hope you will agree to send a telegram to the High Commissioner asking him to examine urgently the possibility of recovering them, and if he thinks this impossible to make alternative proposals. I enclose a draft indicating the lines on which we should like you to approach the High Commissioner.

(Signed) O. G. Sargent

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E

38

E 1950

1243

PALESTINE

26 JAN 1950

Registry Number F1056/648/31

TELEGRAM FROM

M. Martha Bassett

No.

Beirut

Dated

60.

Received in Registry

25 Jan

26 -

Receipt for French Agency Palestine  
Agencies French Press report London Press report  
that French Agency has bought 21 tons of wheat  
receipt from RAF surplus 29.000 tons of supply  
was reported of this transaction by late receipt  
it French Agency being already a delivery  
of the receipt from the RAF has  
Palestine of receipt in a foundation. Paper  
it will be officially denied.

Last Paper.

1044

References.

(Minutes.)

Usual Pal.  
circulation, para re-submit

MS. 31/

Tel. W Beirut

MS. 57/2

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

8 Watkinsen 80  
Kramer Baboff

M139

M104

Admty

AM

Jan Feb 2

P.T.C

(Action completed.)

J.C. 109/2

(Index.)

109/2

Next Paper.

1243

39471 F.O.P

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1 301 E  
LOS ANGELES

UNITED STATES

tel Beirut 72  
Rytd Paris 477  
Bagdad 129  
Tadola 75  
Ransow 57  
Amman 60  
BME-O 103  
Feb 3

S. A. Abone  
Feb 5

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41

[This telegram is of particular secrecy and should be retained by the authorised recipient and not passed on]

Cypher/OTP  
SECRET  
E.

DIPLOMATIC

FROM FOREIGN OFFICE TO BEIRUT

No.72  
3rd February, 1948. D. 3.10 a.m. 4th February, 1948.

Repeated to Cairo No.177  
Bagdad No.129.  
Jedda No.75  
Damascus No.57  
Amman No.60  
B.M.E.O. Cairo No.103  
Jerusalem (via Colonial Office)

IMPORTANT  
SECRET

Addressed to Beirut telegram No.72 of February 3rd. Repeated for information to Cairo, Bagdad, Jedda, Damascus, Amman, B.M.E.O., Jerusalem.

Your telegram No.60 [of the 25th January; sale of aircraft to a Jewish Company].

It is a fact that 21 AUSTER aircraft have been sold by the British Stores Disposal Mission in the Middle East to the Aviron Palestine Aviation Company.

2. In answering questions on this transaction you should point out that all these aircraft were not only unarmed, but also unservicable. Their sale was effected in the open market after invitations to tender had been sent to Arab as well as other purchasing concerns, and the highest tender was accepted. No spares will be supplied for the AUSTERS, and no assistance will be given in servicing them.

3. Although the aircraft were not classified as military material, and their sale was not inconsistent with our policy of denying military supplies to either side in Palestine, it is recognised that the transaction will be criticised and steps have now been taken to prevent the transfer of any further aircraft to either Jews or Arabs in Palestine. For your own information the Palestine Government are examining the possibility of withholding flying licenses for the AUSTERS.

[Cairo only]. Please pass as my telegram No.10303.

QQQQ

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1948

E

E 1360

42

PALESTINE

31 JAN 1948

Registry Number } E1360/648/31  
 FROM } P Hayes  
 No. } WJ Supply  
 Dated } 8 Jan 1948  
 Received in Registry } M Beley  
 27 Jan  
 31 -

Report of receipt & publication  
 Refer incident letter (E940/648/21) transact copy  
 of letter of Jan 23 from Blackstone & Co.  
 concerning the whole situation.  
 Make reference on notes of reply to be  
 sent.

Last Paper.

1243

(Minutes.)

Letter to Mr. Hayes, 27 Jan 48

References.

H.B. 5/2

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

Rt W Hayes  
 WJ Supply  
 from M Beley Feb 7  
 Lamps, Wingham. Co  
 Goulby B.O.T.  
 Bennett M.C.A.  
 Freeman a/m  
 Bardo Admty  
 Feb 9.

(Action completed.)

G.E. 9/2

(Index)

10/2/48

Next Paper.

1418

29470 F.O.P.

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EL.

COPY.

44

WSS.2907  
Ex.43/46/Air 3(b).

W.S. SHACKLETON LTD.,  
175, Piccadilly,  
London, W.1.

23rd January, 1948

For the attention of Mr. E. Haynes.

Ministry of Supply,  
Millbank, London, S.W.1.

Dear Sirs,

re EXPORT OF AIRCRAFT TO PALESTINE.

We thank you in acknowledging receipt of your letter of the 16th instant and note with extreme surprise and regret that you are not prepared to grant Export Licences in respect of the considerable number of Aircraft, Engines and Spare Parts which we have bought for export to Palestine.

We are unaware that any official embargo exists on such exports and we were under the impression that such orders for civil aircraft, etc., would be welcomed by your Ministry and the Board of Trade. Our representatives, who had been in daily touch with these Ministries since January 8th, were given verbal assurances that these Export Licences would be available and dates were indicated - "two or three days ahead", "in twenty four hours", "by tomorrow", "this afternoon" and so forth.

It seems to us obvious that this unfortunate decision must have been made as a result of the present tension in Palestine and that such decision was influenced by the Colonial Office or the Foreign Office. Unfortunately we have been given no reason for this decision and it is possible that the officials who made it were unaware of all the facts, since we have not been given an opportunity to state them nor did they perhaps know of the implications of the present case.

We therefore propose to go over some of the main and relevant facts involved:-

- (1) The aircraft concerned, D.H. TIGER MOONS, Avro ANSONS, Percival PROCTOR and a D.H. RAPIDE, are essentially obsolete wooden aircraft of pre-war design and of low performance. They are to be used for training purposes in Palestine and they cannot by any stretch of imagination be considered as anything except civil aircraft.
- (2) F/Lt. H.G. Tursz-Fredkens is the accredited representative of the Jewish Agency and has been instructed to purchase aircraft for the State of Palestine wherever they may be available. He is an ex-R.A.F. officer with considerable flying experience during the war. The Jewish Agency has at its disposal credits in American dollars (and therefore available for conversion into any form of currency) for a sum amounting to over \$400,000,000 to be spent over a period of 12 months.
- (3) F/Lt. Fredkens prefers to buy British because of his association with the R.A.F., and also on account of the fact that almost all Jewish pilots, air crews and ground personnel had experience and training with British aircraft and engines.
- (4) F/Lt. Fredkens is authorised to purchase civil aircraft and equipment exceeding £1,000,000 and military aircraft for £3,000,000. If exports of British aircraft are to be stopped, the Jewish Agency are free to acquire Douglas DAKOTAS now in Frankfurt or they can purchase aircraft of any kind in America. They also have been offered fighter aircraft of British manufacture from Jugo-Slavia for immediate delivery. If these machines go to Palestine, presumably they will be replaced in the Jugo-Slavia Air Force by Russian aeroplanes.

/(5)

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not inconsistent with the policy of denying warlike material to both Arabs and Jews in Palestine. Since, however, it is possible to adapt civil aircraft for military use, steps have now been taken to ensure that no British aircraft will pass into Arab or Jewish hands in Palestine so long as there is danger of civil war in that country.

I think it should be sufficient to bring this answer to the attention of Shackleton and Co.

I am copying this letter to Higham (C.O.), Coaldry (B. of T.), Dunnett (M.C.A.) ~~King~~ Freeman (Air Ministry) and Cards (Admiralty).

H.B. 5/2

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1870

E

E 1415

48

PALESTINE

2 FEB 1948

Registry Number

FROM

No.

Dated

Received in Registry

E 1415/648/31

Def

Minute

P.M. 48/18

26 Feb  
2 706

File of aircraft to Research Agency from  
Minute to the Prime Minister, 21/1/48  
Aircraft have been sold by War Disposals Board  
to Research Agency recalled from Palestine  
Order that decisions be issued to effect that  
all aircraft remaining in Palestine  
should be either returned to the  
Research Agency or sold.

Last Paper.

7360

References.

E 2707/184/93  
E 2426/184/13

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

(Minutes.)

In P.P. P.M. Minute - M 19/48 26/1  
- G.R. Brown M/Supply & P.M. 29/1  
- M/Reference tel DEF 715 28/1

H.B. 5/2

In P.P. J. & Pumphrey No 10 & J. & Wilson M/Supply 20/1  
- 80 tel 423 2/1  
- M/Reference tel DEF 719 20/1

H.B. 4/2

The Prime Minister's minute, the minute  
by the Minister of Supply and Mr. Pumphrey's letter,  
taken together, require some interpretation. When  
dealing with enquiries from the Ministry of Supply,  
I am taking the line that:

- (i) disposals in the Middle East, apart from  
aircraft, are to be supervised by General  
Hewer, (who will refer doubtful cases home)
- (ii) sales from the United Kingdom of all material  
of military value (except under our three  
Treaties with Iraq, Egypt and Transjordan),  
and all disposals of aircraft, must be cleared  
by the three Ministers.

29470 F.O.P.

H.B. Bealey 11/2

(Action completed.)

6/2

(Index.)

10/2/48

Next Paper.

1603

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Material of military value has been defined by an inter departmental committee as items included in Schedule D B of the Control of Exports Order. If experience shows D B to contain too wide a range of articles the definition will have to be revised.

I agree with Mr. Berkeley's interpretation of the documents in this jacket. For a case in which <sup>the</sup> policy now has to be applied please see E. 1044/648/31 L.P.P. Program  
14/2

BAB

14.2

P.P. At Col. Charles W.O. to Mr. Berkeley  
Parad. W.O. tel 06681 95(W) 1/2

423. 17/2

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Minutes.

E 49

Mr. Beeley.

Auster Aircraft for  
Palestine.

The Private Secretary at No. 10 telephoned to me this morning about the Foreign Secretary's minute of the 26th January. After speaking to you I tried to get No. 10 to incorporate in the Prime Minister's minute to the Minister of Supply the phrases you suggested, but unfortunately the minute had already been despatched last night. No. 10 feel that the Secretary of State's minute, which implied that the Auster Aircraft were covered by the policy directive that arms and warlike materials should be withheld from Jews and Arabs in Palestine, was rather misleading to the Prime Minister.

The Prime Minister's minute to the Minister of Supply was based on the Secretary of State's minute, and No. 10 feel that it invites a rather tart reply. They would be glad if we could send a further minute to the Prime Minister explaining that demilitarised aircraft appear to have been overlooked in the general embargo on the disposal of warlike stores in Palestine, and suggesting that this should be remedied. If we do not do something of this kind, they are afraid that there may be an unnecessarily protracted correspondence between the Prime Minister and the Minister of Supply before anything is done. *No 10 would be*

*glad of anything we can do to avert unnecessary unpleasantness with the Ministry of Supply who are not apparently, as they supposed, to blame*  
*John. Keenan*  
27th January, 1948.

*We were not aware, when the 5/5<sup>o</sup> minute was drafted, that these aircraft were not covered by the policy directive. This was*  
*(not*

Nothing to be Written in this Margin.

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Minutes.

not discovered until two days ~~of~~ later.  
Nevertheless I think ~~the~~ we should proceed  
now on the lines of the attached draft,  
which I have done in the form of a letter  
from the Private Secretary. (Mr. Henniker  
may feel that some other channel would  
be better).

H. B. Seeley  
22/11

I hardly think that anything is  
necessary now. The Min. of Supply have  
replied to the P.M.'s minute and do not  
seem to have taken umbrage

Th.  
30/11

Nothing to be Written in this Margin.

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(33854) W.1.14096/147 75,000 6/47 A. & E. W. Ltd. Cp. 685

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Restricted.  
Open.

H.B.

Draft.

Private Secretary,  
No. 10.

From:  
Mr. Henniker.

Copies to:  
Private Secretaries,  
Colonial Office,  
Ministry of  
Defence,  
Ministry of  
Supply.

*H. Bevin 29/1*

50  
FOREIGN OFFICE, S.W.1.

January, 1948.

Mr. Bevin's attention has been drawn to the fact that his minute to the Prime Minister No. 48/18 of the 26th January, on the subject of the recent sale of aircraft to a Jewish company in Palestine, might be understood to imply a criticism of the Ministry of Supply <sup>on the</sup> Disposals Mission in the Middle East.

2. Mr. Bevin has instructed me to assure you that this was not his intention. He realises that the Disposals Mission deals with material which is by definition not warlike, and which if it had at one time been of a warlike character would have been demilitarised before it passed into their hands. The aircraft in question were consequently not covered by the decision that all warlike supplies should be withdrawn from both Arabs and Jews in Palestine.

3. The point that Mr. Bevin wished to make in his minute was that the sale of these aircraft was nevertheless indistinguishable in its effects from the sale of warlike material within the accepted definition of the words, and that the incident showed that this definition was not wide enough for the purpose which H.M.G. have in mind. It is clearly necessary, in Mr. Bevin's opinion, to extend the strict supervision which <sup>is being</sup> ~~these~~ exercised during the present critical period, over sales of warlike stores to sales of all material of military value.

4. I am sending copies of this letter to:

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Eg 64 Jan. 1948

2 FEB 1948

PALESTINE

A Draft Minute from the Secretary of State to the Prime Minister

Rumours appeared in the British Press at the beginning of this week to the effect that the War Disposals Board in the Middle East had sold twenty-one Auster Aircraft (these are two-seater reconnaissance planes) to a Company controlled by the Jewish Agency for Palestine. My Department at once requested the Ministry of Supply to issue instructions that all action on sales of aircraft should be suspended and a report submitted. The Ministry of Supply took this action, but ~~have not yet received any official information from the Middle East.~~

~~It is now reported, in the Daily Herald and Daily Telegraph of this morning, that the Ministry of Supply's telegram arrived too late and <sup>they now learn that</sup> the aircraft have already been delivered and taken to Tel-Aviv.~~

This sale ~~if it is true that it has been completed,~~ is entirely contrary to the policy of His Majesty's Government, which is to withhold supplies of arms and all warlike material from both Arabs and Jews in Palestine. It ~~would~~ <sup>will</sup> give rise to serious resentment against us in Arab countries, and will make it more difficult for me to dissuade the Arab Governments from taking precipitate action in Palestine.

In order that similar incidents may be avoided in the future, I hope you will feel able to issue a directive to the effect that all transactions involving the disposal of material of military value ~~in or to~~ <sup>for use in</sup> the Middle East must in future be cleared personally by the Minister of Defence, the Secretary of State for the Colonies and myself (or in my absence you).

I /

H. Bealey

H. B. Brown

24.1

H. B. Wright

24.1

Copied to:

1. Defence

S/S Colonies

R/S Supply

20/1.

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I am sending copies of this minute to the  
Minister of Defence, the Secretary of State for  
the Colonies and the Minister of Supply.

RECEIVED IN C.B.
31 JAN 1948
SENT TO

*103*

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INDEXED

SECRETARY OF STATE'S FILE

P.M. 1/22/19.

PRIME MINISTER.

Rumours appeared in the British press at the beginning of last week to the effect that the War Disposals Board in the Middle East had sold twenty-one Aviator Aircraft (these are two-seater reconnaissance planes) to a Company controlled by the Jewish Agency for Palestine. My Department at once requested the Ministry of Supply to issue instructions that all action on sales of aircraft should be suspended, and a report submitted. The Ministry of Supply took this action, but their telegram arrived too late, and they now learn that the aircraft have been delivered.

2. This sale is entirely contrary to the policy of His Majesty's Government, which is to withhold supplies of arms and all warlike material from both Arabs and Jews in Palestine. It will give rise to serious resentment against us in Arab countries, and will make it more difficult for me to dissuade the Arab Governments from taking/

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stores (4,000 tons) with miscellaneous stores from the R.A.F.

As all these stores were provided for the use of the Services, it follows that they all fall within any literal interpretation of the formula "material of military value". I presume that no such wide interpretation is intended, and that special precautions are only desired for weapons, fighting vehicles and aircraft. If it were desired to ensure that none of the stores passed directly or indirectly into the possession of Jews or Arabs in Palestine, hardly any sales would be possible. Even if offers were considered only from buyers with addresses outside Palestine, it would be impossible to ensure that the buyers, having acquired the legal property in the goods, did not hand them over or resell to persons in Palestine. A condition that buyers must remove the stores from Palestine would be likely to fail in the face of transport difficulties alone. It is almost certain, therefore, that a decision to place severe restrictions upon the manner of sale would be equivalent to a decision that the surplus stores in Palestine should be destroyed.

The difficult circumstances in Palestine discourage hopes of satisfactorily disposing of all the stores to be declared surplus, and of obtaining a large revenue from their sale. If, therefore, the Ministry of Supply is to maintain its selling effort, Palestine itself must be the main outlet, even although external buyers are invited to compete.

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COPY.

SECRET CYPHER TELEGRAM.  
INDEXED

59

FROM: MINISTRY OF DEFENCE, LONDON.  
TO : H.Q. BRITISH TROOPS, PALESTINE.

DEF 715

28th January, 1948.

Following for General Hewer from Secretary,  
Ministry of Defence.

Ministers are greatly concerned by the news that 21 Austers have been disposed of in Palestine to a company controlled by the Jewish Agency. It is true that the Auster is a small and unarmed 'plane, but the possession of a score of these by one side when the other side has none may be a major factor in the type of fighting which we anticipate between the Arabs and Jews in Palestine.

2. We also realise that all material which is being sold by the British Stores Disposals Mission is in some sense of military value, and that consequently a complete prohibition on sales of stores of military value in Palestine would mean that the Mission could not dispose of anything at all. A line has to be drawn between ordinary stores and special supplies which may effect the military issue and the disposal of which to one side may cause bitter resentment on the other.

3. We do not feel able to define this line more precisely in London, and must leave it to your discretion and that of the Disposals Mission; with which we

/understand

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understand you have already established liaison. For your guidance however, the sale of these aircraft is particularly unfortunate because it is headlined in the world's press, and because it will consequently add greatly to the difficulties of the Foreign Secretary who is trying to dissuade the Arab Governments from intervening directly in Palestine.

4. Please therefore examine the situation in consultation with the Disposals Mission, in order to make sure that no similar incident occurs during the remaining period of our withdrawal from Palestine.

5. We are considering separately whether anything can be done to neutralize the effect of the disposal of these aircraft to the Jews. Meanwhile they should be denied all spares and of assistance with servicing.

6. Ministry of Supply ask that any categories of material on which a sales embargo is imposed should no longer be declared surplus by the Services in Palestine.

CIRCULATION

TOO 281425Z

- D.C.O.R.
- Foreign Office.
- First Sea Lord.
- Message Control War Office.
- A.M.C.S.
- Chief of Combined Operations Staff.
- Chancellor of the Exchequer.
- Secretary of State for Colonies.
- Minister of Supply.

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Head of Egyptian

**TOP SECRET CYPHER TELEGRAM**

P. W. J.

**WARNING** This message must be thoroughly paraphrased if its text is to be published or communicated outside British or American Services or Departments. If re-transmitted unparaphrased other than through the Cabinet Office, the originator must mark the message "to be sent in One-Time Pad."

OZ 296  
TOD 301830Z  
TOD 301940Z

1948

61

IMMEDIATE

From : MINISTRY OF DEFENCE, LONDON

To : H.Q., BRITISH TROOPS, PALESTINE

DEF 719

30th January, 1948

Following for General Hewer.

My telegram No. DEF 715 of 28th January.

Foreign Office wish me to emphasise to you that any doubtful cases should be referred to London for decision. In view of the difficulty of defining the categories of stores the disposal of which may cause political repercussions, this seems the safest procedure.

CIRCULATION

TOD 301830Z

- D.C.O.R.
- Foreign Office
- First Sea Lord
- Message Control W.O.
- A.M.C.S.
- Chief of Combined Ops Staff
- Chancellor of Exchequer
- Secretary of State for Colonies
- Minister of Supply

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**FO 371 / 68646**

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10, Downing Street,  
Whitehall.

P.M.  
- 63  
E

30 January, 1948.

The Prime Minister has seen the Minister of Supply's minute of January 29 about the sale of Auster Aircraft to a company controlled by the Jewish Agency for Palestine. He has also seen the copy of a telegram sent by the Ministry of Defence to General Hewer, and notes that a satisfactory arrangement seems to have been reached.

I am sending copies of this letter to Henniker (Foreign Office), Richard Wood (Ministry of Defence), Watson (Colonial Office), Hewertson (Admiralty), Drew (War Office) and Orme (Air Ministry).

Sgd. J.L. HENRIKES.

J.M. Wilson, Esq.,  
Ministry of Supply.

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1948

E

PALESTINE

E. 1600

4 FEB 1948

65

Registry Number } E-1602/648/31  
 TELEGRAM FROM  
 No. L. T. H. (Jedda)  
 Dated 55  
 Received in Registry } 3 Feb.  
 4 Feb.

Aircopter for Jewish Agency, Palestine  
 Refers to Beirut tel to 60 (E-105-6/648/31)  
 Ministry of Foreign Affairs have enquired about report that Jewish Agency have bought aircopter for R.A.F. supplies and are seriously disturbed at this occurrence.

Last Paper.

E 1415

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

8. Mr. Matthews (C.O.)  
 Col. Lema (Col Off)  
 M. I. 3a.  
 M. O. 4.  
 Ady.  
 A. M. Feb. 5

(Action completed.)

*[Handwritten signature]*  
 10/2/48

(Index.)

*[Handwritten signature]*  
 10/2/48

Next Paper.

1648

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1948

E

E 1948

67

PALESTINE

5 FEB 1948

Registry Number E1648/648/31

TELEGRAM FROM

No. UK Del

Dated New York

Received in Registry } 340  
4 Feb  
5 -

Supply of receipt to Soltal.  
Refer to it 1446(E 1044/648/31) In consultation with B.I.S. have done best to secure publicity for copy contained in 1447 to extent. Report of document can proceed by way of Press at UN H.Q. with unconvoluted announcement specify best practices.

Last Paper.

1603

(Minutes.)

~~Handwritten~~  
N.A. Dyer 11/2  
New York 1/2

213. 5/12

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

(Action completed.)

J. E. 1/16/2

(Index.)

1/20/2

Next Paper.

1660

30471 F.O.P

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE

1	2	3	4	5	6
1	2	3	4	5	6

Reference:-

**FO 371 / 68646**

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Cypher/OTP

POLITICAL DISTRIBUTION

68  
E 104E

FROM NEW YORK TO FOREIGN OFFICE

(From United Kingdom Delegation to the United Nations)

No. 340

4th February, 1948

D. 12.10 a.m. 5th February, 1948

R. 6.15 a.m. 5th February, 1948

Repeated to Washington

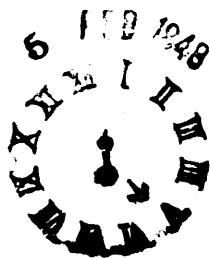
IMPORTANT

Addressed to Foreign Office telegram No. 340 of 4th February repeated to Washington.

Your telegram No. 416 to Washington.

In consultation with B.I.S. we have done what we can to secure publicity for the reply contained in your telegram No. 1417 to Washington. It is only fair to report however that the document was received by many of the press at United Nations headquarters with un concealed amusement especially last sentence.

888



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PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE

Reference:-

FO 371 / 68646

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1948 **E** 69  
**E 1660**  
**PALESTINE** 5 FEB 1948

Registry Number *E 1660/648/31*  
 FROM *P. Haynes*  
 No. *M/Supply*  
 Dated *5 Aug, 1948*  
 Received in Registry *5 Feb*

*Export Licence for Aircraft for Palestine*  
*Enclose copy of letter 1/19 from*  
*British Overseas Airways Corp. with which to apply*  
*for export licence for the above aircraft*  
*for Palestine.*

**Last Paper.**  
*1648*

(Minutes.)  
*2000 W.M. Supply*

**References.**  
*12*

*H.B. 8/2*

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)  
*Sgt. Haynes. M/Supply.*  
*Compt. Higham, BU*  
*Boulby. R.O.T.*  
*Burnett M.C.A.*  
*Kramer. O/M.*  
*Parso. Admby*  
*Feb 10/48*

(Action completed.)  
*J.P. 10/2*

(Index.)  
*[Signature]*  
*10/2/48*

**Next Paper.**  
*1760*

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE

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Reference:-  
**FO 371 / 68646**

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Registry  
No. E 1660/648/31

Top Secret  
Secret  
Confidential  
Restricted  
Open

Draft. Mr. Haynes  
Mr. Supply  
J.K.S.  
(from Mr. Bealey)

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

(2/47) (14728) Wt. 11489-144 250mm 5/47 G.S.S.

[Division  
please fill  
in reference]

g/v  
w/v

OUT FILE 10 Feb.  
X 5

9/1  
9/15  
71

Please refer to your letter no. 8/9mp and Exp/3787 Air 3 (b) of the 3rd February, enclosing a copy of an application from the British Aviation Bureau for ~~export~~ licences to export certain aircraft to Palestine.

As I suggested in my letter no. E1660/648/31 of Feb 7, ~~which~~ it seems sufficient to answer this and similar enquiries, until the danger or the reality of civil war in Palestine has passed, by quoting the reply given to Sir Jocelyn Lucas in the House of Commons by ~~the Minister of Defence~~ on the 4th February, in the course of which the Minister of Defence said that no British aircraft would

/be

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Reference:-					
<b>FO 371 / 68646</b>					
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to allowed to pass into Arab or  
Jewish hands in Palestine.

I am copying this letter to  
Higham (C.O.), Coudroy (B.O.T.),  
Dunneth (M.<sup>C.</sup> & A.), Freeman (Air  
Ministry) and Cardo (Admiralty).

H.B. 9/2

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

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FOREIGN OFFICE, ... 73

10th February, 1948.

(S 1660/648/31)

CONFIDENTIAL

*Dear Haynes*

Please refer to your letter No. S/Imp and Exp/372/Air 3(b) of the 3rd February, enclosing a copy of an application from the British Aviation Bureau for licences to export certain aircraft to Palestine.

As I suggested in my letter No. S 1660/648/31 of the 7th February, it seems sufficient to answer this and similar enquiries, until the danger or the reality of civil war in Palestine has passed, by quoting the reply given to Sir Jocelyn Lucas in the House of Commons on the 4th February, in the course of which the Ministry of Defence said that no British aircraft would be allowed to pass into Arab or Jewish hands in Palestine.

I am copying this letter to Higham (Colonial Office), Goultry (Board of Trade), Bennett (Ministry of Civil Aviation), Freeman (Air Ministry) and Cardo (Admiralty).

*H. Beale*  
*W. G. Smith*

H. Haynes, Esq.,  
Ministry of Supply.

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PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE

FO 371 / 68646

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1948

PALESTINE

E 1961

11 FEB 1948

Registry Number

FROM

No.

Dated

Received in Registry

E 1961/648/31

Air Ministry Board

11 Feb

Disposal of Aircraft - N.E.

N.Q. RAF MED/N.E. at QX 3835 of 4 Feb and AIR 275 of Feb 7 dealing with disposal of RAF Aircraft in the N.E.

Last Paper.

1762

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

Capt. W.W. Green.  
Air Ministry.  
Buck House

(enc) Feb 13

Tel Washington 1759  
Rpts B.M.S.O 150  
Paris 240  
UK and New York 64  
Typed to Green draft Feb 12  
with draft Feb 13

(Action completed.)

J.L. 6/6/48

(Index.)

J.L. 6/6/48

Next Paper.

2173

(Minutes.)

See separate minutes.

I now submit action in the shape of letter to A.M. and tel. to Washn.

D. S. Beir

Feb. 11

(BEIT 11)

B. B. Brown

11.2

Int. P. 40. Minute M. Beith 6/2

M.W. Low O/M. F.39/S.6. to M. Scott Stephens 5/2

JD Feb. 14

1	2	3	4	5	6
1	2	3	4	5	6

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE

Reference:-

**FO 371 / 68646**

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DISPOSAL OF AMERICAN LEND-LEASE AIRCRAFT TO PALESTINE

This may easily turn out to be quite as tricky a case as that of the Austers. Unfortunately, the attached telegram from the R.A.F. Headquarters in the Middle East is not at all clear. I have asked Mr. Low to send a most immediate telegram inquiring:-

1. How many aircraft are involved,
2. Where they are,
3. Whether they are serviceable,
4. How far the act of transfer to the United States authorities has gone.

Mr. Low recognised that, whatever might be the legal ownership of the aircraft, we bear the responsibility in local opinion for their disposal if they are seen being taken away from R.A.F. airfields like the Austers. I suggested that we might have to try and arrange to deliver them elsewhere to the Americans and fly them away from Palestine for this purpose. This, however, depends on whether they are serviceable and whether the R.A.F. can spare the pilots to fly them away. I pointed out to Mr. Low that in a matter of this importance it might be necessary for the Cabinet to direct the Air Force to provide the necessary personnel.

I have also asked Mr. Low to instruct Middle East to hold up any action in regard to the transfer or disposal of these aircraft until they receive further instructions, when the matter has been considered here in the light of their further report.

*J.G.S. Beith*

J.G.S. Beith.  
6th February, 1948.

*Mr Beithley*  
North American Dept.

*I am not happy about this. There would not be much point in forbidding the R.A.F. and Disposal Mission to sell aircraft to Arabs or Jews if British aircraft were passing into Jewish hands via the American Field Liquidation Commission. When we have*

*J.G.S.*

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Minutes.

the Air Ministry's fuller report, we  
should consider taking the matter up  
with Washington.

HT Bealey 4/2

SAB Burton

7.2

Yes

HTB

7.2

Mr. Burrows

HTB

11.2

Don

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# CYPHER MESSAGE

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AC

CYPHER

(Recd Registry Telegrams 6th January, 1948)

From:- HQ R.A.F. MED/A.E.  
To:- Air Ministry, London.

QX.3835 /4th February.

IMPORTANT.  
SECRET.

Exclusive for A.M.S.O. From A.O.A.

Your OX.1489 28th January.

Disposal of Auster aircraft was effected in accordance with instructions received in Air Ministry, London. Signal 005260 20th May, 1947 (.). Details of aircraft, together with location and condition were furnished to British stores disposal mission in this Headquarters MED/A.E. /S76581/8/EAA 9th July, 47 (.). Air Ministry was reminded in this Headquarters signal QX.3946 dated 8th October 47 that all Auster V held in Egypt and Levant had been submitted to British stores disposal mission for sale.

2. No action was taken by this Headquarters regarding limitation of conditions of sale, as it was assumed that this was entirely the responsibility of the Ministry of Supply.

3. There are now eleven Libesters and fifteen Dakota IV aircraft on offer for surrender to the U.S. Foreign Liquidation Commissioner Cairo, in accordance with Air Ministry Instructions (.). British embassy are apprehensive as to possible purchasers of these aircraft and are approaching Foreign Office. Is any action required to restrict the disposal of these aircraft or is this purely a matter of American concern. Time of origin. 040621Z. Copies to :AMS0 (action 2 copies)

Recirculated Registry Telegrams 9th February, 1948. Authority PS/A.M.S.O.

Copies to :-  
A.M.S.O. (action) (2 copies)  
S.6.  
PS/ S of S  
PS/VCAS  
ACAS(F) (2 copies)  
D P.I. (AS) (2 copies)  
D.D.O. (A)  
D.O. (FF)  
S.9. (S)  
Foreign Office (Mr Scott Stephens).  
Colonial Office (Mr. Formey).

Note.—In the interests of economy, both sides of this sheet should be used.

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**SECRET**

CB77

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PH.

KX.10870.

(Recd. Regy. Tels. 7th February 1948)

FROM:— HQ. MED.M.E.TO:— AIR MINISTRY, LONDON.IMPORTANT.SECRET.AIX.275.February 7th.

Your AX.1631 4 Feb.

1.
  - (A) 11 Lodestars(?) and 15 Dakotas
  - (B) Aircraft in Maintenance Units in Egypt
  - (C) Aircraft can easily be made serviceable to fly away
  - (D) Aircraft have been offered to Americans under Lease Lend agreement for disposal of equipment, and they have indicated that they wish to dispose of these aircraft themselves. Nothing known here about Dollar expenditure involved in re-possessing, but in this connection suggest you consult AMSO. See also this H.Q. Signal Q.3835 of 4 Feb. exclusive for AMSO. from A.O.A.
2. Once aircraft are sold, RAF. have no further control over them and delaying tactics would be difficult.

Time of origin 070930Z.

COPIES TO:—

S.6. (Action) (2 copies); P.S. to S. of S.; P.S. to A.M.S.C.;  
 P.S. to V.C.A.S.; A.C.A.S. (P) (2 copies); D. Pol. (AS) (2 copies); D.D.O. (A);  
 S.9 (Supply); Foreign Office (Mr. Scott Stephens); Colonial Office (Mr. Formoy).

**Note.**—In the interests of economy, both sides of this sheet should be used.

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Registry  
No. E 1961/648/31

Top Secret

Secret

Confidential

Restricted

Open

JG SB

Draft.

W.W. Green,  
Air Ministry,  
Bush House.

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

(365) Wt. 25886/149 100m. 1/48 A.O.S.

13.  
11th February, 1948.

OUT FILE

13/11/81  
13/11/81

Dear Green,

We have now seen Middle East Headquarters' telegram AIX 275 of February 7 about lend-lease Lodestars and Dakotas which are due to be handed back to the U.S. Field Liquidation Office in Egypt.

As I explained to you on the telephone, H.M.G. and the U.S. Govt. are in constant touch on the subject of preventing material of military value from entering Palestine. We are very anxious for our part to avoid any repetition of the Auster case and it is of great importance that these more serviceable aircraft should not reach Palestine through any action of ours.

Now that your Ministry have instructed Headquarters Middle East to delay the transfer of these aircraft for 14 days, we shall be able to give the U.S. authorities sufficient advance warning for the responsibility of ~~their~~ disposal to be placed squarely on their shoulders. I enclose a copy of the telegram we are sending to Washington.

Wills

11-2

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References -					
FO 371 / 68646					
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82

FOREIGN OFFICE, S.W.1.

13th February, 1948.

(B 1961/648/31)

CONFIDENTIAL

Dear Green,

We have now seen Middle East Headquarters' telegram AIX 275 of the 7th February about lend-lease Lodestars and Dakotas which are due to be handed back to the United States Field Liquidation Office in Egypt.

As I explained to you on the telephone, His Majesty's Government and the United States Government are in constant touch on the subject of preventing material of military value from entering Palestine. We are very anxious for our part to avoid any repetition of the Auster case and it is of great importance that these more serviceable aircraft should not reach Palestine through any action of ours.

Now that your Ministry have instructed Headquarters Middle East to delay the transfer of these aircraft for fourteen days, we shall be able to give the United States authorities sufficient advance warning for the responsibility of disposal to be placed squarely on their shoulders. I enclose a copy of the telegram we are sending to Washington.

*Yours sincerely  
L.F.L. Lyman*

W.W. Green, Esq.,  
Air Ministry.

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FO 371 / 68646

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1948

E

84

E 2173

PALESTINE

16 FEB 1948

Registry Number *E2173/2173/81*

TELEGRAM FROM

No. *101*

Dated *Tedd 9*

Received in Registry *72*  
*14 Feb*  
*16 -*

*Quarter telegraph sent to Amman by*  
*letter to Mr. & Mrs. (E1026/1026) in connection*  
*with official temporary in charge of*  
*Foreign Office, Amman referred to Carter Amman*  
*and told official that they were unnecessary as*  
*and sent up cables were provided as facilities*  
*for their report.*

Last Paper.

*1961*

(Minutes.)

*H-13. 14/12*

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

*By Hattman, to*  
*Herman Saboff*  
*M.I. 29*  
*1104*  
*Adams*  
*AW*  
*Feb 16*

(Action completed.)

*G.P. 17/2*

(Index.)

*[Signature]*  
*10/1/48*

Next Paper.

*2536*

30471 F.O.P

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Reference: -

**FO 371 / 68646**

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1948

E

86

E 2536

PALESTINE

24 FEB 1948

Registry Number E 2536/648/21  
 FROM Ser. J. Lloyd  
 No. 1  
 Dated 19 Jan 48  
 Received in Registry 19 Feb 48

sale of aircraft to Avion Bay.  
 Refer to O. Jorgent letter (E 1243/648/11)  
 from M/C Lt W 202, it will be seen that  
 representations of the sale of aircraft to Avion  
 Bay are not likely to be as serious as had been  
 feared. Therefore does not feel that M/C  
 can be pressed to take any further action  
 with a view to recovery of these aircraft.

Last Paper.

2173

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

(Action completed.)

J.L.L. 6/3

(Index.)

[Handwritten marks]

Next Paper.

2637

(Minutes.)

I do not think we need pursue this any further.

H.B. Bailey 24/2

No. PL. draft reply

[Handwritten initials]

1.3

I don't think the letter calls for an answer.

H.B. 5/3

26513 F.O.P.

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RECEIVED IN O.B.
20 FEB 1913
SENT TO DEPT.

by the Minister of Defence that no further sales of aircraft are to be permitted will go far to reassure the Arab countries that no deviation from His Majesty's Government's policy in Palestine is implied or contemplated.

6. So far as we are aware, there have been no further repercussions and, subject to your views, we propose now to let the matter rest.

*Your sincerely,*

*T. S. K. Lloyd*

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3317  
8/I and R/371

20 February 1948.

Dear Mr. Beard,

I am writing in confirmation of our recent telephone conversation concerning your export licence application for aircraft destined for Palestine.

In this connection I have to draw your attention to a statement made in the House of Commons by the Minister of Defence on the 4th February. The relevant part reads as follows:

"Since it is possible to adapt civil aircraft for military use, steps have now been taken to ensure that no British aircraft will pass into Arab and Jewish hands in Palestine so long as there is danger of civil war in that country".

You will appreciate that in the circumstances your application cannot be granted at the present time.

Yours sincerely,

J.H.C. Beard Esq.,  
W.O. Shackleton Ltd.,  
175 Piccadilly,  
London, W. 1.

91

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EL.

3317

3604

8/1 & 8/371/ALR 3(b).

Copy for: Mr. Bealey (F.O.)

92

25 FEB 1948

Dear Higham,

I understand from our recent telephone conversation that your Department may propose that the export of aircraft to Palestine on a loan basis should be permitted.

I am anxious to know what decision is reached on this subject as the ruling will presumably apply to the sale of aircraft by Shackleton to the Astra Trading Company for loan to the Aviron Co. (Palestine). You will see from the attached copy of my letter to Shackleton that I have replied to them according to the terms of Bealey's letter E.1360/648/31 of the 7th February of which you hold a copy and they will probably take steps to drop the matter unless they receive early notice of the modification of the previous decision.

I am copying this letter to Bealey (Foreign Office)

Yours sincerely,

J.D. Higham, Esq.,  
Colonial Office,  
Church House,  
64, Smith Street,  
London, E.C.4.

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FO 371 / 68646

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17

**E**

E 4466 <sup>93</sup>

PALESTINE

9 APR 1948

1948

Registry Number E4466/648/31

FROM Parliamentary Question

No. Majro Tufton Beamish

Dated 7th April

Received in Registry 9th "

Use of Auster aircraft by Jews in Palestine.

Major Tufton Beamish, asked Minister of Defence whether he is aware that a number of Auster aircraft have been used by the Jews in Palestine for bombing etc against the Arabs; whether these aircraft were obtained from British sources; and whether owners of these and other aircraft obtained from British sources will be allowed to retain them.

Mr. Alexander, is informed that one aircraft believed to be an Auster, was recently employed by the Jews in operations against the Arabs. The source from which this aircraft was obtained is not at present known, enquiries are being made.

Last Paper

2637

(Minutes.)

103. 9/4

References

(Print)

(How disposed of)

(Action completed)	(Index)
S.E.M. 10/4	[Signature] 10/2/48

Next Paper

5580

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PARLIAMENTARY  
QUESTION.

E 914

**Auster Aircraft, Palestine**

31. **Major Tufton Beamish** asked the Minister of Defence whether he is aware that a number of Auster aircraft have been used by the Jews in Palestine for bombing, machine-gunning and reconnaissance purposes against the Arabs; whether these aircraft were obtained from British sources; and whether it is his intention to allow these and other aircraft obtained from British sources to be retained by their present owners.

**Mr. Alexander:** I am informed that one light aircraft, believed to be an Auster, was recently employed by the Jews in operations against the Arabs in Palestine. The source from which this aircraft was obtained is not known at present, but I am having further inquiries made.

**Major Beamish:** Does the right hon. Gentleman recollect that, as recently as 4th February, he claimed that the sale of these Auster aircraft was not inconsistent with the policy of denying warlike material to both Arabs and Jews, and that he went on to describe these aircraft as non-military stores? May I ask whether these are still his views?

**Mr. Alexander:** As I have said, I am having inquiries made into this particular aircraft. In this case, it did not enable the Jews to make their operations successful. What I said on 4th February was that these aircraft, which had been demilitarised and all of which were un-serviceable, had been sold by open tender, and it was open to either side to buy them. [*Interruption.*] I gave that information. I am not sure what all the trouble is about. We gave orders that no further aeroplanes should be supplied.

7 APR 1948

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E

97

1948

5580

3 MAY 1948

PALESTINE

Registry Number } E5580/648/31  
 FROM Parliamentary Question  
 No. MAJ. TUFTON BEAMISH  
 Dated 28.4.48.  
 Received in Registry } 3.5.48.

Aircraft used by the Jews against the Arabs in Palestine  
 Maj. Tufton Beamish asked the Minister of Defence whether he had completed his enquiries regarding the use by the Jews in operation against the Arabs in Palestine of one or more light aircraft: the source from which such aircraft was obtained, and if he would make a statement.  
 Mr Alexander replied that it had not been possible to establish the identity or the origin of the said aircraft. Maj. Beamish asked a supplementary question.

Last Paper  
4466

References

(Print)

(How disposed of)

(Action completed) (Index)  
*[Handwritten signatures and dates]*

Next Paper  
E6791

(Minutes.)

*DB- 4/5*

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Class.....371.....  
Piece..68646

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E 6791/648/31  
E 6792 " 4

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21

E

E 6867 99

1948

25 MAY 1948

Registry Number E6867/648/31  
 FROM Air Ministry  
 (comm'd)  
 No. A. 918.  
 Dated May 14<sup>th</sup>  
 Received in Registry May 25<sup>th</sup>

Permission for Aircraft to land at Ramat David

Signal received from the F.O. states that it is essential that Halton should not land at Ramat David. The aircraft Halton has not landed at Malta & the whereabouts is unknown.

Last Paper  
 E 6792

References

(Print)

(How disposed of)

(Action completed)

col 28/r

(Index)

4/2/48

Next Paper

E6893.

See within

(Minutes.)

- 1) Air Ministry tel. No AP. 2917 --- 18/5
- 2) " " " " AP 3286 --- 20/5
- 3) " " " " ACX. 1698 --- 21/5

JB May 27

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22

E

E 6893  
25 MAY 1948

104

Registry Number | E6893/648/31

TELEGRAM FROM  
Mr Dixon PRAGUE

No. 588 SECRET

Dated May 20, 1948

Received in Registry May 25, 1948

Supply of aircraft to Palestine.

Message for the Air Ministry from Air Attaché Prague.

It is reported that a number of Czechoslovak aircraft have recently been flown to Palestine by Jewish and foreign pilots. Requests enquiries be made to find out if any aircraft reinforcements have arrived in Palestine.

Last Paper.

E 6867.

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

(Minutes.)

See within: JB May 26  
Paris Telegram 737 of May 31.  
JB June 3

2. P.P. Prague tel 679 12/6  
N. Dept. P.M.  
18. V.

4. 16: vi

2. P.P. Rome tel 997 16/6.

Sgt. Nos. 2 2660/9.

4. 28: vi

(Action completed.)

Index

cod  
27/5

*[Handwritten signatures]*

Next Paper.

~~E 6867~~  
~~E 6868~~  
E 6918

32008 F.O.P.

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E 6897: 648/71

UNCLASSIFIED

108  
jacket  
Yes please

[This telegram is of particular secrecy and should be retained by the authorised recipient and not passed on] 16:vi

CYPHER/OTP

AIR MINISTRY DISTRIBUTION

FROM ROME TO FOREIGN OFFICE

Sir V. Mallet.  
No. 988.

D: 10.02 a.m. 16th June, 1948.

16th June, 1948.

R: 11.50 a.m. 16th June, 1948.

IMPORTANT

SECRET

Following for Air Ministry.

[Begins]

Air Ministry please repeat MED/ME from Air Attaché Rome AA208 of June 15th.

Reference your AIX 5445 of June 9th subject Czech Civil Air Line Prague to Palestine, answers to your queries are:

- (1) weekly
- (2) D.C.
- (3) Air contacts will watch future arrivals and endeavour to discover nature of the cargoes. Will report results by signal.
- (4) Believed no.

@@@

16 JUN 1948

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243

E

E 6918

20 MAY 1948

1948

109

Registry Number E6918/648/31

FROM Syrian legation

No. 96

Dated May 24<sup>th</sup>

Received in Registry May 26<sup>th</sup>

Complaint against delivery of British aircraft to Jewish forces

A number of British aircraft are being flown to Palestine from the U.K. while no Arab country, even though having a treaty with Gr. Britain, can obtain an Export licence for planes or arms. Adds that the collective action of the Arab States is nothing more than the defence of themselves & the Middle East.

Last Paper

E6916

References

(Print)

(How disposed of)

- 15) A.M. (Mr. J. Hampton)
- M/C.A. (Mr. L. Podger)
- 1 June
- 15) W.O. (Maj. Leask)
- MIS (Mr. Scherr)
- 1 June

PTV

(Action completed)

30/6

(Index)

Next Paper

E 6953

(Minutes.)

I don't suppose he really means fighters: they couldn't reach Palestine easily without stopping at inconvenient places. But as far as I know we have no evidence of any aircraft being successfully flown from the U.K. There were the four held up at Rhodes, to which we can point in our reply.

A.M. (Mr. Hampton)

M.C.A. (Mr. L. Podger)

For obs.

also W.O. (Maj. Leask)

MIS (Mr. Scherr)

Bu.

J. J. Deane

May 27

94967

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18183 E

I have spoken with Hampton & Haytrip (A.M.) & N.C.A  
& they all agree that they know of no substantiated  
cases, ~~there are no photos~~ but that there are  
possible loopholes & we cannot deny categorically.

I think therefore that our reply to the Syrians shd.  
take the form of saying that there are restrictions  
on the sale of lighters, & that we do not allow them  
to be flown out of the U.K. for Palestine; but that  
if they can produce any concrete cases of this  
having been done, we will ask Podgor to take disciplinary  
action ~~away from the pilots, being liable~~. We might also,  
as you suggest, mention the four Amicus at Rhodes.  
? so draft. Lundquist 18.vi.

Mr. Brett.  
Yes, me. Better just say  
that if any evidence can  
be produced we shall  
look into the matter most  
urgently. B June 22  
Lundquist 23.vi.

Off.  
Despatched. LT. 29.vi.

Off: 14 E. Lyman  
Lundquist  
June 24  
M. Hampton, P.M.  
Podgor N.C.A.  
H. Leaf W.O.  
Leah N.I.P.  
June 24

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Registry  
No. E.6918/648/31

FOREIGN OFFICE, S.W.1. 110

June, 1948.

Top Secret.  
Secret.  
Confidential.  
Restricted.  
Open.

LGT

Draft.  
Letter

H.E. the Syrian  
Minister,  
Syrian Legation,  
London

FROM:-

Copies to:-  
Air Ministry -  
Mr. Hampton  
Ministry of  
Civil Aviation -  
Mr. Podger  
War Office -  
Major Leask  
M.I.5 - Mr. Scherr  
D

*Am. 23:vi*

*Draft amended  
JB*

Your Excellency,

I have the honour to refer to Your Excellency's Note No. 96 of 24th May and to inform you that permits are not for the present being granted for the export of fighter aircraft to Palestine and that it would be illegal for any British fighter aircraft to leave this country for Palestine without such a permit. In any case where this was known to have happened strong disciplinary measures would of course be taken, and if Your Excellency would be so good as to furnish me with more detailed evidence of any such flights having taken place I should see that it was investigated with the utmost urgency.

In such cases as have already come to their notice His Majesty's Government have taken prompt action, and in this connection I would draw Your Excellency's attention to the case of four Anson aircraft which <sup>recently</sup> left the United Kingdom for Palestine without export permits and which have been impounded at Rhodes and have been deprived of their registration certificates.

I have the honour, etc.,

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

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Cypher/CTP

AIR MINISTRY DISTRIBUTION.

FROM HOME TO FOREIGN OFFICE.

Sir V. Mallet.

No. 907.

27th May, 1948.

D. 10.29 a.m. 28th May, 1948.

R. 1.13 p.m. 28th May, 1948.

IMPORTANT.

SECRET.

E. 7128

Addressed to Air Ministry (DDAF) ~~29 MAY 1948~~ repeated to Foreign Office and Prague.

Reference H.C. 2222 signal AIX 384 of May 21st 1948. It has become apparent that many activities are in progress in Italy regarding supply of aircraft and ammunition to the Jews in Palestine. Head of local organisation is believed to be Dutch Jew named Van Havr.

2. Prior to May 15th there were reports that some II Anson and DH Rapide aircraft registered in United Kingdom moving round Europe under the guise of tour flights. Pilot of one aircraft spoke freely and stated that he thought the aircraft had been purchased in different places and then flown to United Kingdom for overhaul and C of A. Pilots were to fly around killing time until May 15th and then try to make their way to Palestine as the Jews required aircraft for carrying supplies to outlying communal farms. Some of these aircraft were impounded when they landed at Rhodes. Italian authorities were asked to hold others in the absence of proper clearance from United Kingdom.

3. Reliable source states that the Italian Government has recently granted export licence for some 15 tons of arms and ammunition which are now awaiting transport by sea or air. Further 8 to 10 tons reported awaiting despatch from United States subject to onward transportation by air from Italy. Italian airlines not yet participating in air traffic to Palestine but companies are pressing authorities to permit such flights. Authorities have so far refused on the pretext that they are still bound by terms of the peace treaty. Some British companies reputed anxious to undertake this traffic but hesitating because uncertain regarding insurance aspect i.e. war risk premiums may make such operations too expensive. Charter companies are obviously feeling their way and looking for remunerative traffic of this nature.

4. Probably, however, the greatest activity in air transport will come from America. Company known as Service Airways registered in New York appears to be the mainspring. Arrangements have already been made for supply of 8 Curtis Commando C-46 aircraft registered in Panama. These aircraft are coming into Catania and Sicily from Casablanca and giving final destination as Prague. Each is reputed to be carrying fighter aircraft of unknown type and five have already gone through. Remaining three are following.

5. In addition to the above, two American Norseman

/aircraft have recently

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26

E

E 7171

116

1948

PALESTINE

31 MAY 1948

Registry Number } E7171/648/31

TELEGRAM FROM Mr Greenway PANAMA

No. 62

Dated May 27, 1948

Received in Registry May 31, 1948

Activities of Lineas Aerasde Panama

Refers to Panama telegram 61 of May 25 (E6953/648/31)

Substance of information contained in above telegram was published in the press on May 25th. Cuttings follow.

Last Paper.

E 7128

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

8/15/48 to 31 May  
f/office E 7128

apt. ataney  
Panama.

8/15/48 to 31 May  
...  
June 29

(Action completed.)

7/1/48  
7/1/48

Next Paper.

E 8074

(Minutes.)

NY Dept

JB Man 31

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CYPHER/OTP

DEPARTMENTAL DISTRIBUTION

FROM PANAMA TO FOREIGN OFFICE

Mr. Greenway.  
No. 62.

D: 6.35 p.m. 27 MAY 1948.

27th May, 1948.

R: 1.41 a.m. 28th May, 1948.

Repeated to: Washington.

Addressed to Foreign Office telegram No. 62  
of 27th May repeated to Washington.

My telegram No. 61 of 25th May.

Civil Aviation.

Substance of information contained in paragraphs 1  
and 3 of my telegram under reference was published  
in local press on 25th May. Cuttings follow by  
air mail.

[Copy sent to Middle East Secretariat]

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A. & E. W. Ltd. Gp. 685

Registry 7171  
No. E. 5772/648/31.

Top Secret	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Secret	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Confidential	<input type="checkbox"/>
Restricted	<input type="checkbox"/>
Open	<input type="checkbox"/>

L.T.

Draft

The Gy Panama  
from  
Eastern Dept.

12/6 hms

OUT

12/10

118

22 June

Dear Chancery.

Your telegrams nos 57 and 59  
about LINEA AEREOS PANAMENA.

We shd. be grateful if you wd.  
be so kind as to let us have a copy  
of your letter 22/19/48 of 4th May  
to the Air Attache' GUATEMALA, if  
you have not already done so.

Yours ever

Eastern Dept.

4 21:vi

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FOREIGN OFFICE, S.W. 1.

22nd June, 1948.

(E 7171/648/31)

CONFIDENTIAL

Dear Chancery,

Your telegrams Nos. 57 and 59  
about Linea Aereos Panamena.

We should be grateful if you  
would be so kind as to let us have a  
copy of your letter 22/19/48 of the  
4th May to the Air Attaché Guatemala,  
if you have not already done so.

Yours ever,

EASTERN DEPARTMENT.

The Chancery,  
British Legation,  
Panama.

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**E 8437**     "     "  
**E 9477**     "     "

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